

The Passing Track

December 2005

Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club

PO Box 1362—Medford, OR 97501

Home page is <http://rvmrc.railfan.net/>

January Calendar of Events

All events in the Clubhouse at the Railroad Park unless otherwise noted.

Planning Meeting

Saturday January 14

Generally between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

General Construction/New Layout

Saturdays

Usually Between 9 AM to 3 PM

Construction/Cleanup Sessions:

Thursdays

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Board Meeting:

2nd Wednesday of each month

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

4th Wednesday of each month

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Planning Meeting January 14

The Club will start the New Year with a meeting on January 14, 2006 at 1 PM to discuss planning and layout needs for the year 2006. All Club members are invited and encouraged to come so we have the best possible vision about the Club's needs and strategies for the first part of the new year. This is your opportunity to bring forth ideas and help to develop a strategy for the next 6-12 months to help the Club make significant progress on the new layout. Not only are your ideas important, but also the ways by which those ideas will come to fruition. The Club has had a number of members finding it difficult to spend time in Club activities and construction due to health, family and work-related issues. The Club needs a cohesive plan that considers not only the needs and goals for the new layout, but also the realistic commitments that club members are willing to make to see those goals being achieved. If you cannot make this important planning meeting, please share your ideas and concerns with one of the Club members who will be attending.

December Board Meeting Notes

The Board met on December 8, 2005, with E. Don Pettit calling the meeting to order. In addition to four board members, five members attended. Bruce reported the Club netted \$2,490 from the RR Show, but a number of show-related expenses had not yet been deducted. Jay also reported that the Club sold 10 of its special run cars at the RR Show. The Board accepted Fred Christian as a new regular member. That gives the Club 49 members on its roster, including two life members. Bruce replaced the outside faucet, which was leaking, and removed the center post at the front door porch as a safety measure. This post was directly in the walking path to the front door, and several people have struck or come close to walking into the post in the past. The two remaining posts to either side of the walkway are adequate to hold up the porch. Jay reported the modules performed well during the RR Show. He appreciated the members that helped set up, tear down, run trains, and completed their assigned tasks at the show. "Snuffy" (Jerome Haas) provided the club a larger banner, which was used at the RR Show, and accepted only a nominal fee for doing so. Don Terrell reported Spakousky has returned to work following his heart surgery. Jay will check on updating and printing new Club information pamphlets. The Board will decide next month on whether to purchase a track cleaning car.

RVMRC Thanks Medford Inn

This year's club Christmas potluck was attended by nearly 20 members, guests, and spouses and hosted by the Medford Inn. The Inn graciously allowed us the use of their continental dining facility and provided great hot coffee and tea, along with a wonderful Christmas tree and the amenities that make a party successful. The food was abundant and tasty (one could have dined luxuriously just with the plethora of desserts!). A uncharacteristically civil white elephant gift exchange ensued (no Preparation H this year), and a drawing for the free night's stay at the Inn's hot tub suite followed. Dave Spakousky was the lucky winner! Don Terrell made this wonderful arrangement with the Medford Inn. Thank you Don and Thank You to the Medford Inn for providing us a wonderful facility and donating the door prize of a night's stay in the hot tub suite.

Club to Support Troops With Kits

An outgrowth of an effort begun by Doug Howard and Bruce McGarvey is now a Club committal to send an occasional (bi-monthly or so) box of kits and games to members of the U.S. 311th MTT attached to the Iraqi Army Unit in Northern Iraq. Members of this unit use these kits/games for both themselves and Iraqi children in the area. This is a small way for the Club to say "Thanks" to our soldiers for the work they do so far from home. The Club will have a box at the Clubhouse for you to deposit your donations.

Record Crowds View 2005 RR Show

Over 4,000 "kids of all ages" crowded the aisles at the 28th annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show this past November 26-27. This year's show featured an eclectic collection of model railroad layouts, encompassing a broad range of scales, themes, and landscapes. Several N-scale modelers exhibited their personal efforts, including two beautifully-landscaped layouts by Bob Marcy of Grants Pass, and a three-train layout by Vince Oredson of Ashland that included structure models inspired by European castles. Loren Snyder of Medford exhibited a Z-scale layout featuring mountainous terrain. A crowd-pleasing garden-scale layout operated by Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains (SOLST) sported the largest operating models at the show. The SOLST exhibit placed first in this "People's Choice" tally. The Ashland-based Siskiyou Toy Train Club, runner-up in the "People's Choice" vote, had many attendees reliving their childhood days with their clever layout featuring O-scale Lionel trains. Gary Johnson of Central Point placed third in the balloting with an amusingly detailed N-scale layout featuring a winter fantasy scene.

Other crowd-pleasing exhibits included two large and detailed modular layouts: the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club's "Pacific & Eastern Line" HO-scale railroad, and the Eugene-based A&P 'N'-gineer's N-scale railroad. Attendees were encouraged to take the throttle and run the HO-scale train on the "Junior Pretzel" layout and to solve the "Switching Puzzle" layout. Many lucky patrons took home a treasure, as sixty-nine prizes, ranging from restaurant gift certificates to large train sets, were awarded in a show-ending drawing. Vendors stationed in the Armory's balconies offered over eighty tables with a cornucopia of railroad-related goods.



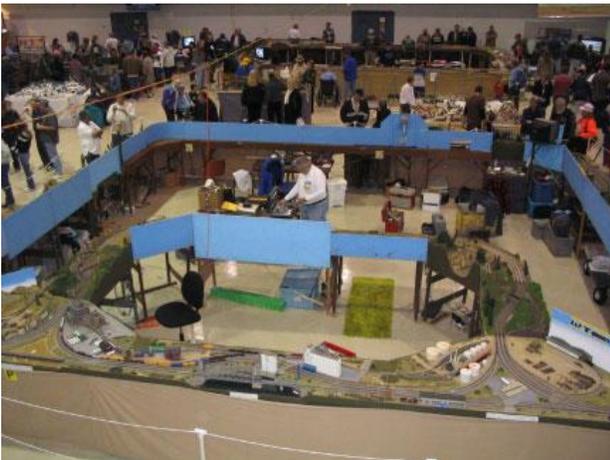
Rick Aubin Photo

Overhead view from the south balcony showing RVMR Club in foreground.



Wil Cleveland Photo

A Pennsy passenger train passes several freights and the Zephyr on the RVMR Club layout.



Rick Aubin Photo

The A&P Engineers N-scale layout as viewed from the north balcony.

The 2005 Rogue Valley Railroad Show



Rick Aubin Photo

James Murphy tends to some housekeeping chores while managing trains during the show's setup on Friday afternoon. Having loaded the truck Wednesday night gave us ample time to unload first thing Friday morning and set up the Club's layout.



Rick Aubin Photo

The Lego Train.

RAILROAD TIME CARDS 2006

May 20 – Meet-‘N’- May, a gathering of N-scale modelers, Fir Grove Elementary School, Beaverton, Ore., 10am–4pm. Info: Bill Ervin 503-293-1591 or billervin46@aol.com

Apr. 8-9, 2006 18th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Ore. Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 10am-4pm More info: Lee or Diane Temple, 541-688-9112 or email at ttandt@ram-mail.com or ldtemple@ram-mail.com

Apr. 2-4 & 6-12 – Charter Train Excursions by Trains Unlimited, Tours, LLC. Pacific Northwest including Eugene, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Ashland, Weed Apr 2-4; Ashland-Grants Pass Apr 6; Weed, Ashland, Eugene Apr 6-12. Info: 1-800-359-4870, www.trainsunlimitedtours.com

Nov. 25-26 – 29th Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show, Medford Armory, Medford, Ore. Sat 10 – 5 and Sun 11 - 4. Info: Brad Fawcett 541-535-7952, bfawcett@mind.net

Dec. 2 – Railroad Show and Swap Meet, Polk Cty Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Ore. 10am-3pm. Info: Judy MacInnes 503-581-6071 or macinnej@open.org, www.open.org/wvmrc

If you know of shows not listed here please let me know so we can share that info. with our readers.

Contact Bruce at iwccr@charter.net or 541-779-8145. 12/14/2005bhm.

Thought for the month: "Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God."

Rogue Valley Model RR Club
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